

171
 172
 173
 174
 175
 176
 177
 178
 179
 180
 181
 182
 183
 184
 185
 186
 187
 188
 189
 190
 191
 192
 193
 194
 195
 196
 197
 198
 199
 200
 201
 202
 203
 204
 205
 206
 207
 208
 209
 210
 211
 212
 213
 214
 215
 216
 217
 218
 219
 220
 221
 222
 223
 224
 225
 226
 227
 228
 229
 230
 231
 232
 233
 234
 235
 236
 237
 238
 239
 240
 241
 242
 243
 244
 245
 246
 247
 248
 249
 250
 251
 252
 253
 254
 255
 256
 257
 258
 259
 260
 261
 262
 263
 264
 265
 266
 267
 268
 269
 270
 271
 272
 273
 274
 275
 276
 277
 278
 279
 280
 281
 282
 283
 284
 285
 286
 287
 288
 289
 290
 291
 292
 293
 294
 295
 296
 297
 298
 299
 300
 301
 302
 303
 304
 305
 306
 307
 308
 309
 310
 311
 312
 313
 314
 315
 316
 317
 318
 319
 320
 321
 322
 323
 324
 325
 326
 327
 328
 329
 330
 331
 332
 333
 334
 335
 336
 337
 338
 339
 340
 341
 342
 343
 344
 345
 346
 347
 348
 349
 350
 351
 352
 353
 354
 355
 356
 357
 358
 359
 360
 361
 362
 363
 364
 365
 366
 367
 368
 369
 370
 371
 372
 373
 374
 375
 376
 377
 378
 379
 380
 381
 382
 383
 384
 385
 386
 387
 388
 389
 390
 391
 392
 393
 394
 395
 396
 397
 398
 399
 400
 401
 402
 403
 404
 405
 406
 407
 408
 409
 410
 411
 412
 413
 414
 415
 416
 417
 418
 419
 420
 421
 422
 423
 424
 425
 426
 427
 428
 429
 430
 431
 432
 433
 434
 435
 436
 437
 438
 439
 440
 441
 442
 443
 444
 445
 446
 447
 448
 449
 450
 451
 452
 453
 454
 455
 456
 457
 458
 459
 460
 461
 462
 463
 464
 465
 466
 467
 468
 469
 470
 471
 472
 473
 474
 475
 476
 477
 478
 479
 480
 481
 482
 483
 484
 485
 486
 487
 488
 489
 490
 491
 492
 493
 494
 495
 496
 497
 498
 499
 500
 501
 502
 503
 504
 505
 506
 507
 508
 509
 510
 511
 512
 513
 514
 515
 516
 517
 518
 519
 520
 521
 522
 523
 524
 525
 526
 527
 528
 529
 530
 531
 532
 533
 534
 535
 536
 537
 538
 539
 540
 541
 542
 543
 544
 545
 546
 547
 548
 549
 550
 551
 552
 553
 554
 555
 556
 557
 558
 559
 560
 561
 562
 563
 564
 565
 566
 567
 568
 569
 570
 571
 572
 573
 574
 575
 576
 577
 578
 579
 580
 581
 582
 583
 584
 585
 586
 587
 588
 589
 590
 591
 592
 593
 594
 595
 596
 597
 598
 599
 600
 601
 602
 603
 604
 605
 606
 607
 608
 609
 610
 611
 612
 613
 614
 615
 616
 617
 618
 619
 620
 621
 622
 623
 624
 625
 626
 627
 628
 629
 630
 631
 632
 633
 634
 635
 636
 637
 638
 639
 640
 641
 642
 643
 644
 645
 646
 647
 648
 649
 650
 651
 652
 653
 654
 655
 656
 657
 658
 659
 660
 661
 662
 663
 664
 665
 666
 667
 668
 669
 670
 671
 672
 673
 674
 675
 676
 677
 678
 679
 680
 681
 682

Docket 82662HEC

INK JET RECORDING ELEMENT

Express Mail Label No.: EL656967330US

Date: December 12, 2001

INK JET RECORDING ELEMENT

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

Reference is made to commonly assigned, co-pending U.S. Patent
5 Application: Serial Number _____ by Wang et al., (Docket 83824) filed of
even date herewith entitled "Ink Jet Printing Method".

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to an ink jet recording element
10 containing a mixture of various particles.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In a typical ink jet recording or printing system, ink droplets are
ejected from a nozzle at high speed towards a recording element or medium to
15 produce an image on the medium. The ink droplets, or recording liquid, generally
comprise a recording agent, such as a dye or pigment, and a large amount of
solvent. The solvent, or carrier liquid, typically is made up of water and an
organic material such as a monohydric alcohol, a polyhydric alcohol or mixtures
thereof.

20 An ink jet recording element typically comprises a support having
on at least one surface thereof an ink-receiving or image-receiving layer, and
includes those intended for reflection viewing, which have an opaque support, and
those intended for viewing by transmitted light, which have a transparent support.

An important characteristic of ink jet recording elements is their
25 need to dry quickly after printing. To this end, porous recording elements have
been developed which provide nearly instantaneous drying as long as they have
sufficient thickness and pore volume to effectively contain the liquid ink. For
example, a porous recording element can be manufactured by cast coating, in
which a particulate-containing coating is applied to a support and is dried in
30 contact with a polished smooth surface.

There are generally two types of ink-receiving layers (IRL's). The first type of IRL comprises a non-porous coating of a polymer with a high capacity for swelling and absorbing ink by molecular diffusion. Cationic or anionic substances are added to the coating to serve as a dye fixing agent or mordant for the cationic or anionic dye. This coating is optically transparent and very smooth, leading to a high glossy "photo-grade" receiver. The second type of IRL comprises a porous coating of inorganic, polymeric, or organic-inorganic composite particles, a polymeric binder, and additives such as dye-fixing agents or mordants. These particles can vary in chemical composition, size, shape, and intra-particle porosity. In this case, the printing liquid is absorbed into the open pores of the IRL to obtain a print which is instantaneously dry to the touch.

A glossy, porous IRL usually contains a base layer and a glossy image-receiving layer. When coated on plain paper, the base layer is laid down underneath the glossy image-receiving layer. In order to provide a smooth, glossy surface on the image-receiving layer, special coating processes are often utilized, such as cast coating and film transfer coating. Calendering with heat and pressure is also used in combination with conventional blade, rod or air-knife coating on plain paper to produce gloss on the image-receiving layer.

While glossy, porous IRL's have the ability to absorb high concentrations of ink instantly, they suffer from image fastness problems, such as fading due to exposure to radiation by daylight, tungsten light, fluorescent light, or ozone, as described by D.E. Bugner and C. Suminski, "Filtration and Reciprocity Effects on the Fade Rate of Inkjet Photographic Prints", Proceedings of IS&T's NIP16: International Conference on Digital Printing Technologies, Vancouver, BC, Oct. 2000. It is believed that the poor image fastness may be attributed to the greater permeability of the porous IRL's to oxygen and/or other airborne reactants such as ozone.

EP-A 1,034,940A1 discloses an ink jet-recording element wherein the image-receiving layer contains inorganic particles and an oil dispersion containing a hydrophobic antioxidant dispersed in a high-boiling organic solvent.

However, there is a problem with this element in that the mechanical strength and surface scratch and rubbing resistance of the image-receiving layer are significantly reduced.

It is an object of this invention to provide a glossy ink jet recording element that, when printed with dye-based inks, provides good surface gloss, fast drying time, and excellent image fastness.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This and other objects are achieved in accordance with the invention which comprises an ink jet recording element comprising a support having thereon an image-receiving layer comprising inorganic particles and stabilizer particles, the stabilizer particles being free of any organic solvent and comprising greater than about 80% by weight of a water-insoluble antioxidant and having a mean particle size of greater than 5 nm, the inorganic particles comprising greater than about 50% by weight of the ink receiving layer.

By use of the invention, an ink jet recording element is obtained that, when printed with dye-based inks, provides good surface gloss, fast drying time, and excellent image fastness.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The support for the ink jet recording element used in the invention can be any of those usually used for ink jet receivers, such as resin-coated paper, paper, polyesters, or microporous materials such as polyethylene polymer-containing material sold by PPG Industries, Inc., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania under the trade name of Teslin ®, Tyvek ® synthetic paper (DuPont Corp.), and OPPalyte® films (Mobil Chemical Co.) and other composite films listed in U.S. Patent 5,244,861. Opaque supports include plain paper, coated paper, synthetic paper, photographic paper support, melt-extrusion-coated paper, and laminated paper, such as biaxially oriented support laminates. Biaxially oriented support laminates are described in U.S. Patents 5,853,965; 5,866,282; 5,874,205;

5,888,643; 5,888,681; 5,888,683; and 5,888,714, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference. These biaxially oriented supports include a paper base and a biaxially oriented polyolefin sheet, typically polypropylene, laminated to one or both sides of the paper base. Transparent supports include
5 glass, cellulose derivatives, e.g., a cellulose ester, cellulose triacetate, cellulose diacetate, cellulose acetate propionate, cellulose acetate butyrate; polyesters, such as poly(ethylene terephthalate), poly(ethylene naphthalate), poly(1,4-cyclohexanedimethylene terephthalate), poly(butylene terephthalate), and copolymers thereof; polyimides; polyamides; polycarbonates; polystyrene;
10 polyolefins, such as polyethylene or polypropylene; polysulfones; polyacrylates; polyetherimides; and mixtures thereof. The papers listed above include a broad range of papers, from high end papers, such as photographic paper to low end papers, such as newsprint. In a preferred embodiment, polyethylene-coated paper is employed.

15 The support used in the invention may have a thickness of from about 50 to about 500 μm , preferably from about 75 to 300 μm . Antioxidants, antistatic agents, plasticizers and other known additives may be incorporated into the support, if desired.

In order to improve the adhesion of the ink-receiving layer to the
20 support, the surface of the support may be subjected to a corona-discharge treatment prior to applying the image-receiving layer.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the ink jet recording element of the invention contains a base layer between the support and the image-receiving layer. In another preferred embodiment, the base layer comprises
25 inorganic particles and stabilizer particles, the stabilizer particles being free of any organic solvent and comprising greater than about 80% by weight of a water-insoluble antioxidant and having a mean particle size of greater than 5 nm, and the inorganic particles comprising greater than about 50% by weight of the base layer.

As noted above, the image-receiving layer and preferably the base
30 layer contain at least about 50% by weight of inorganic particles. In a preferred

10061341-121201

embodiment, the inorganic particles comprise calcium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, kaolin, clay, talc, calcium sulfate, barium sulfate, titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, zinc hydroxide, zinc carbonate, aluminum silicate, calcium silicate, magnesium silicate, synthetic amorphous silica, fumed silica, colloidal silica, silica gel, alumina gel, fumed alumina, colloidal alumina, pseudo-boehmite, or zeolite. In another preferred embodiment, the inorganic particles have a mean particle size of from about 50 nm to about 500 nm.

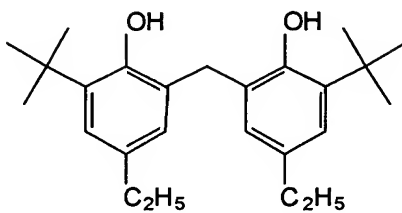
Porosity of the image-receiving layer is necessary in order to obtain very fast ink drying. The pores formed between the particles must be sufficiently large and interconnected so that the printing ink passes quickly through the layer and away from the outer surface to give the impression of fast drying. At the same time, the particles must be arranged in such a way so that the pores formed between them are sufficiently small so that they do not scatter visible light.

In still another preferred embodiment, the image-receiving layer and base layer contains a binder such as a polymeric material and/or a latex material, such as poly(vinyl alcohol) and/or styrene-butadiene latex. In still another preferred embodiment, the binder in the base layer is present in an amount of from about 5 to about 20 weight %. In still another preferred embodiment, the thickness of the base layer may range from about 5 μm to about 50 μm , preferably from about 20 to about 40 μm .

As noted above, the stabilizer particles useful in the invention comprise greater than about 80% by weight of a water-insoluble antioxidant and have a mean particle size of greater than 5 about nm. Examples of antioxidants which may be used in the invention include a substituted phenol, aromatic amine, piperidine-based amine, mercaptan, organic sulfide or organic phosphate. Preferred antioxidants include hindered phenols in which at least one of the hydroxyl groups in the ortho position is substituted with a tertiary alkyl group, or at least one hydroxyl group in the phenols or hydroxybenzene is modified to other by an alkyl group.

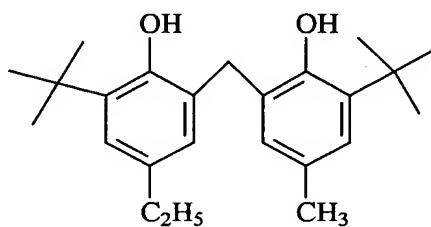
Specific examples of water-insoluble antioxidants useful in the invention include:

S-1



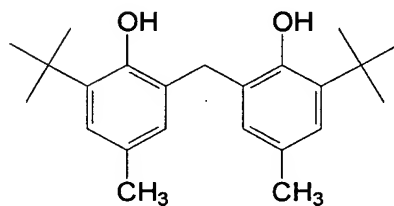
5

S-2

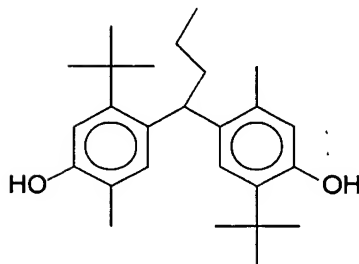


10

S-3

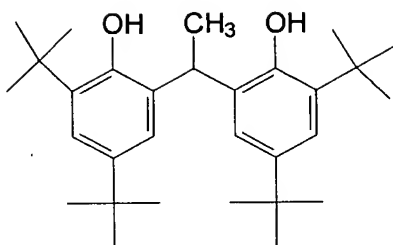


S-4

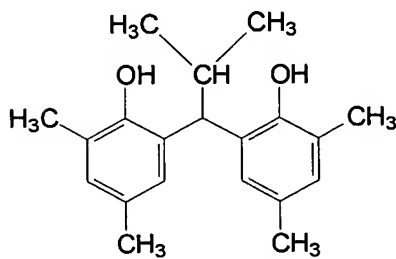


15

S-5

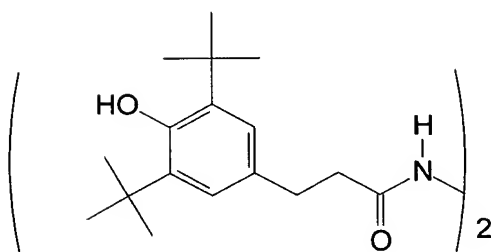


S-6

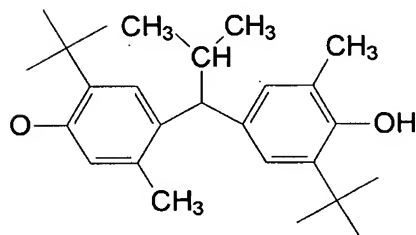


5

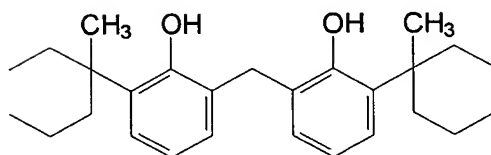
S-7



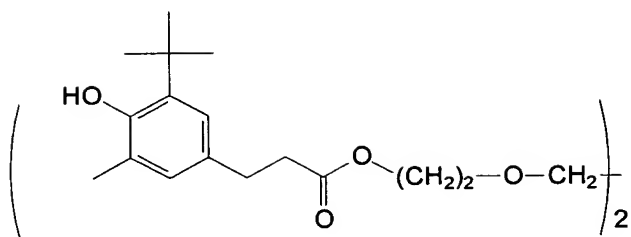
S-8



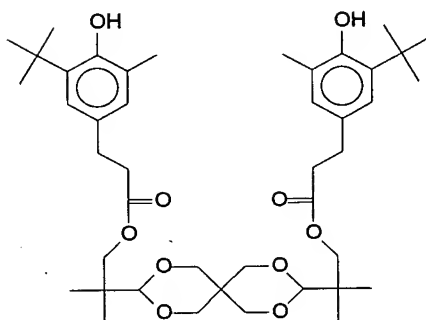
10 S-9



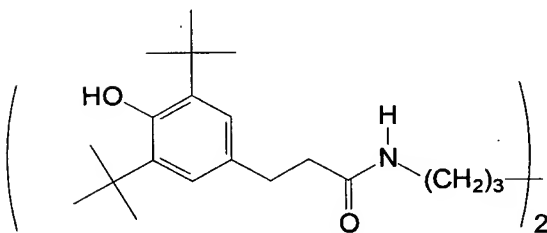
S-10



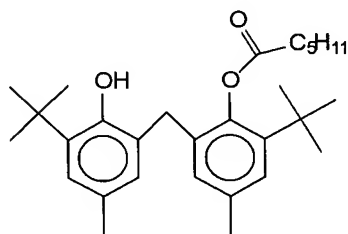
5 S-11



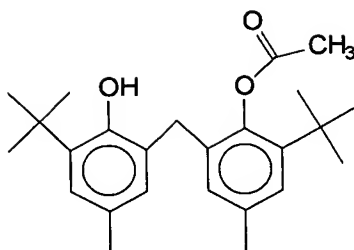
S-12



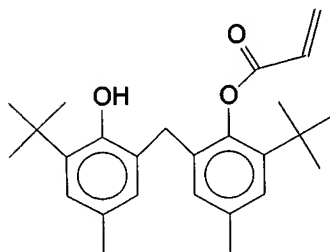
10 S-13



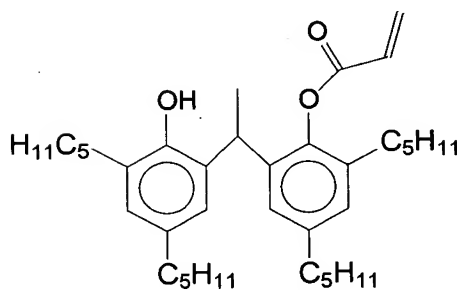
S-14



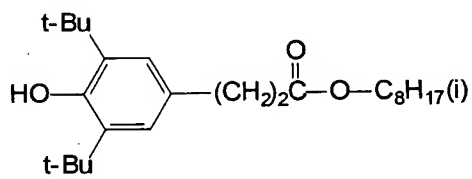
S-15



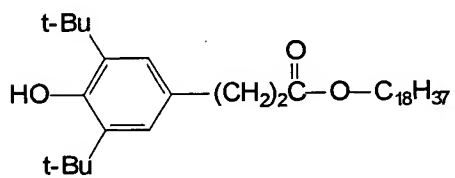
5 S-16



S-17



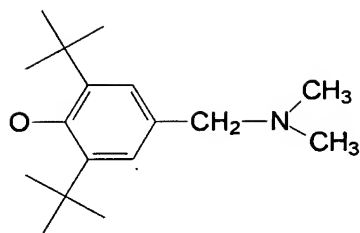
S-18



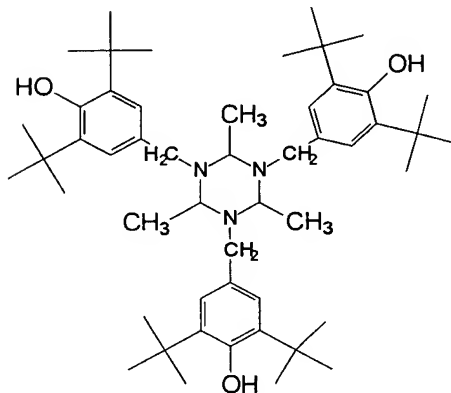
10

10021341-121201

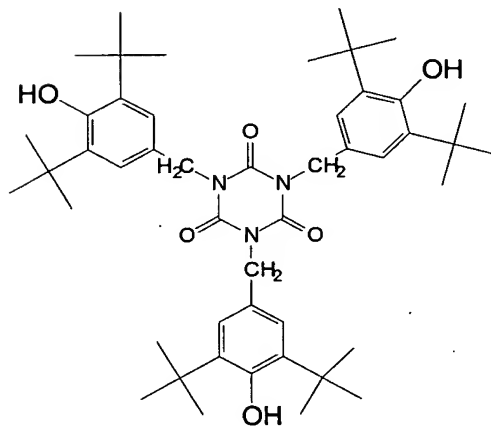
S-19



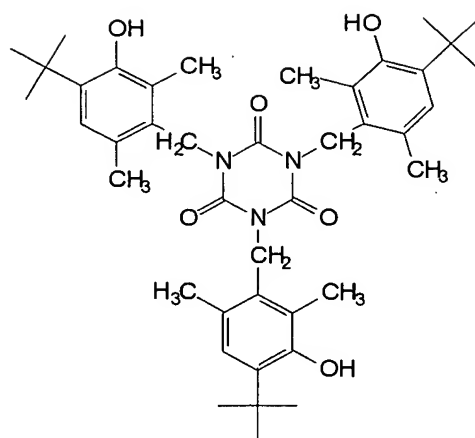
S-20



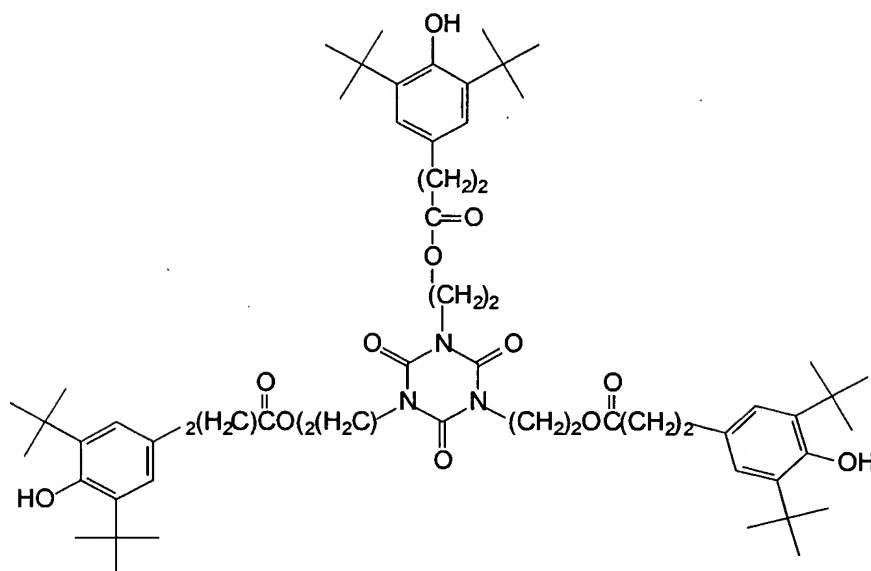
5 S-21



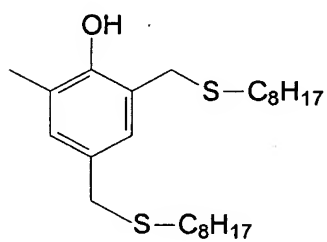
S-22



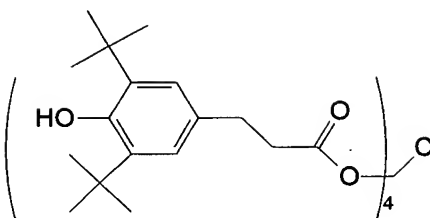
S-23



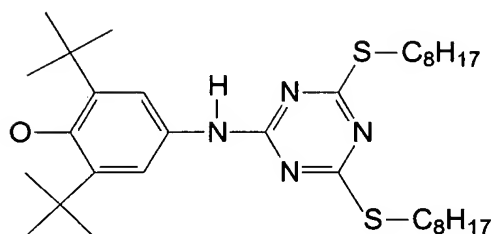
5. S-24



S-25

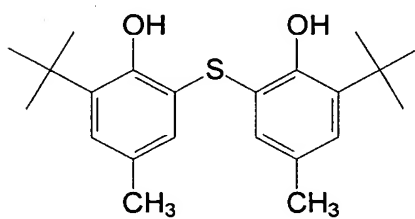


S-26

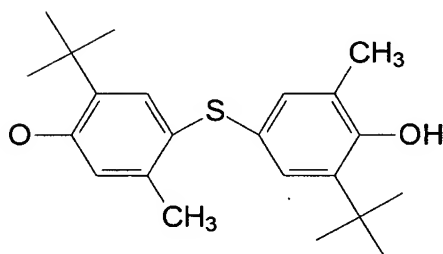


5

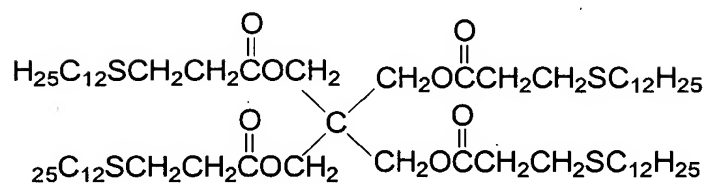
S-27



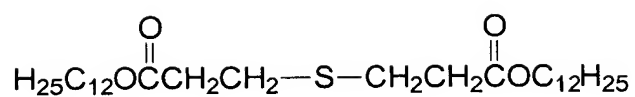
S-28



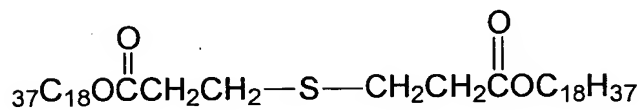
10 S-29



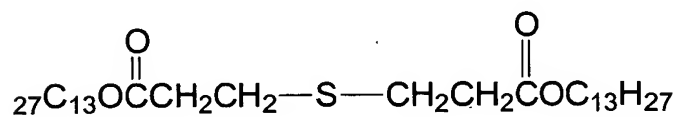
S-30



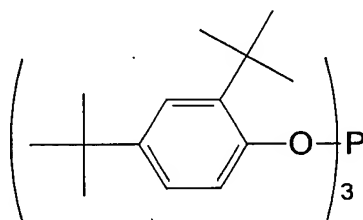
S-31



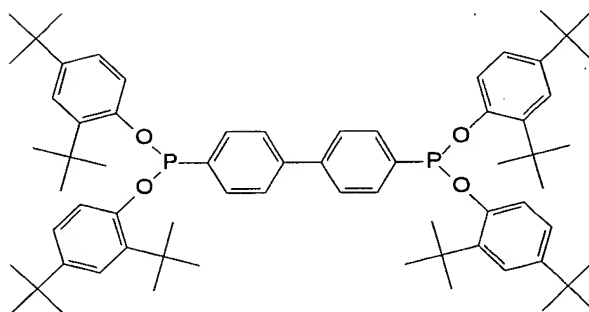
5 S-32



S-33

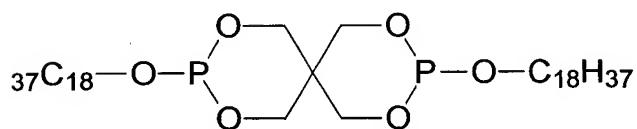


S-34

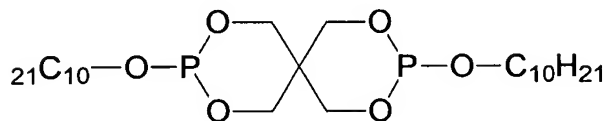


10

S-35



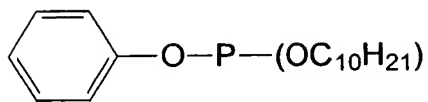
S-36



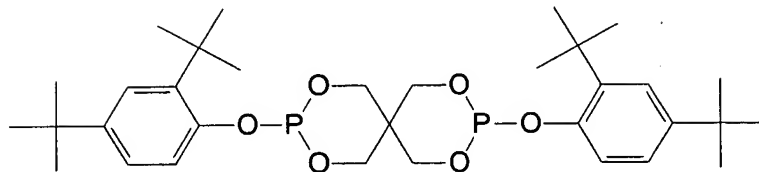
15

1001-1101

S-37

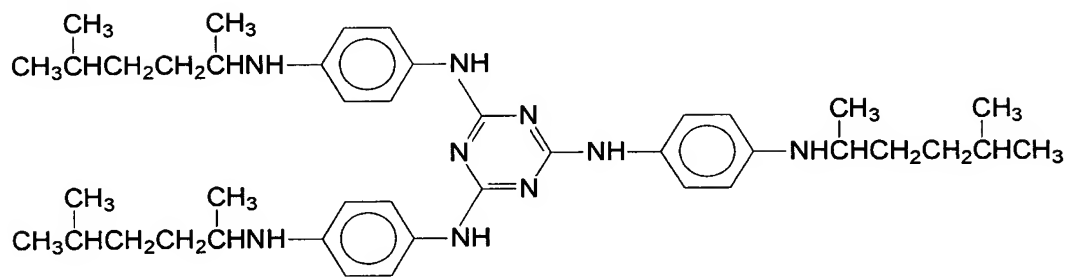


S-38



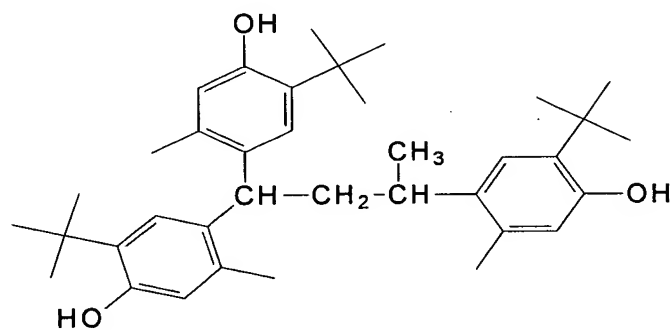
5

S-39

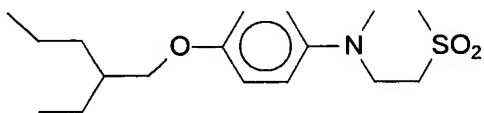


10

S-40



S-41



15

10021344-12101

The stabilizer particles used in the present invention may contain a dispersant or surfactant. Depending on the intended applications, the dispersant can be nonionic, anionic, or cationic, and can be polymeric. The surfactants may be used at levels as high as 20% of the stabilizer particle.

5 Stabilizer particles employed in the invention can be formed by various methods known in the art. For example, they can be prepared by pulverizing and classifying the dry antioxidant or by spray drying of a solution containing antioxidant followed by re-dispersing the resultant particles in water using a dispersant. The particles can also be prepared by a suspension technique
10 which consists of dissolving an antioxidant in, for example, a water immiscible solvent, dispersing the solution as fine liquid droplets in aqueous solution, and removing the solvent by evaporation or other suitable techniques. The particles can also be prepared by mechanically grinding an antioxidant material in water to a desired particle size in the presence a dispersant. The particles can also be
15 prepared by the so-called "atmospheric emulsification" and pressure emulsification" techniques. The atmospheric emulsification process is used to prepare antioxidant dispersions for antioxidants with melting points below the boiling point of water. The process typically consists of melting the antioxidant and a surfactant together, and optionally adding a base. Hot water is then slowly
20 added to the antioxidant solution with vigorous agitation. The antioxidant dispersion can also be made by adding a molten antioxidant/surfactant blend to boiling water with vigorous agitation. The pressure emulsification technique is generally used with an antioxidant having a melting point greater than 100°C.

25 The stabilizer particles useful for the practice of the invention have a mean particle size of greater than about 5 nm, preferably, a mean size of from about 5 nm to about 10 μ m. When used in the image receiving layer, the stabilizer particles preferably have a mean size of from about 5 nm to about 500 nm, and more preferably from about 5 nm to about 300 nm. In a preferred embodiment, the coating weight of the stabilizer particles in the ink receiving layer varies from

about 10 mg/m² to about 5 g/m², and more preferably from 100 mg/m² to about 2 g/m².

In another preferred embodiment, the image-receiving layer contains a dye fixing agent. For fixing cationic dyes, the image-receiving layer preferably contains an anionic fixing agent. For fixing anionic dyes, the image receiving layer preferably contains a cationic fixing agent. Amphoteric fixing agent can also be used for fixing either cationic dyes or anionic dyes. Such fixing agents can be water soluble or insoluble. Preferably, the fixing agents are water-dispersible polymer particles.

The thickness of the image-receiving layer may range from about 5 to about 40 μm, preferably from about 10 to about 20 μm. The coating thickness required is determined through the need for the coating to act as a sump for absorption of ink solvent and the need to hold the ink near the coating surface.

After coating, the ink jet recording element may be subject to calendering or supercalendering to enhance surface smoothness. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the ink jet recording element is subject to hot, soft-nip calendering at a temperature of about 65°C and pressure of 14000 kg/m at a speed of from about 0.15 m/s to about 0.3 m/s.

Coating compositions employed in the invention may be applied by any number of well known techniques, including dip-coating, wound-wire rod coating, doctor blade coating, rod coating, air knife coating, gravure and reverse-roll coating, slide coating, bead coating, extrusion coating, curtain coating and the like. Known coating and drying methods are described in further detail in Research Disclosure no. 308119, published Dec. 1989, pages 1007 to 1008. Slide coating is preferred, in which the base layers and overcoat may be simultaneously applied. After coating, the layers are generally dried by simple evaporation, which may be accelerated by known techniques such as convection heating.

In order to impart mechanical durability to an ink jet recording element, crosslinkers which act upon the binder discussed above may be added in small quantities. Such an additive improves the cohesive strength of the layer.

Crosslinkers such as carbodiimides, polyfunctional aziridines, aldehydes, isocyanates, epoxides, polyvalent metal cations, and the like may all be used.

To improve colorant fade, UV absorbers, radical quenchers or antioxidants may also be added to the image-receiving layer as is well known in the art. Other additives include pH modifiers, adhesion promoters, rheology
5 modifiers, surfactants, biocides, lubricants, dyes, optical brighteners, matte agents, antistatic agents, etc. In order to obtain adequate coatability, additives known to those familiar with such art such as surfactants, defoamers, alcohol and the like may be used. A common level for coating aids is 0.01 to 0.30 % active coating aid
10 based on the total solution weight. These coating aids can be nonionic, anionic, cationic or amphoteric. Specific examples are described in MCCUTCHEON's Volume 1: Emulsifiers and Detergents, 1995, North American Edition.

The coating composition can be coated either from water or organic solvents, however water is preferred. The total solids content should be selected to
15 yield a useful coating thickness in the most economical way, and for particulate coating formulations, solids contents from 10-40% are typical.

Ink jet inks used to image the recording elements of the present invention are well-known in the art. The ink compositions used in ink jet printing typically are liquid compositions comprising a solvent or carrier liquid, dyes or
20 pigments, humectants, organic solvents, detergents, thickeners, preservatives, and the like. The solvent or carrier liquid can be solely water or can be water mixed with other water-miscible solvents such as polyhydric alcohols. Inks in which organic materials such as polyhydric alcohols are the predominant carrier or solvent liquid may also be used. Particularly useful are mixed solvents of water
25 and polyhydric alcohols. The dyes used in such compositions are typically water-soluble direct or acid type dyes. Such liquid compositions have been described extensively in the prior art including, for example, U.S. Patents 4,381,946; 4,239,543 and 4,781,758, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

Although the recording elements disclosed herein have been referred to primarily as being useful for ink jet printers, they also can be used as recording media for pen plotter assemblies. Pen plotters operate by writing directly on the surface of a recording medium using a pen consisting of a bundle of

5 capillary tubes in contact with an ink reservoir.

The following examples are provided to illustrate the invention.

EXAMPLES

Preparation of Stabilizer Particle Dispersions

10 A stabilizer particle dispersion refers to a suspension of stabilizer particles in an aqueous medium.

SP-1:

In a container, solution A was prepared by combining 240 g of S-11 (illustrated above) with 360 g of ethyl acetate and heating to 50°C with mixing to dissolve the antioxidant. In a separate container, solution B was prepared by combining 250 g of a 20% polyvinyl alcohol solution of Airvol 205® (Air Products Corp.), 140 g of Alkanol XC® anionic surfactant (DuPont Corp.), 4 g of a 0.7% Kathon LX® solution (Rohm and Haas) and 1006 g of deionized water and

15 heating to 45°C with mixing.

20

A premix (a crude oil-in-water emulsion) was formed by mixing solution A and solution B with a Silverson rotor-stator device at 5,000 rpm and mixing continued for two minutes. Then the premix was passed through a Crepaco high energy homogenizer one time at 1.4×10^6 kg/m² (2,000 psi) and the

25 fine emulsion was collected in a glass round-bottom flask. The emulsion was rotary evaporated at 65°C under vacuum to remove ethyl acetate and some water. The resulting fine particles of antioxidant in water were sized on a Microtrac – UPA 150 and found to have a mean volume average diameter of 220 nm.

1004344-12301

SP-2:

SP-2 was prepared in a similar manner as SP-1 except stabilizer S-20 was used instead of S-11.

5 SP-3:

SP-3 was prepared in a similar manner as SP-1 except that cetyltrimethylammonium bromide (CTAB) was used instead of the Alkanol XC® surfactant

10 SP-4:

SP-4 was prepared in a similar manner as SP-2 except that CTAB was used instead of the Alkanol XC® surfactant.

SP-5:

15 SP-5 was prepared in a similar manner as SP-1 except that polyvinyl alcohol was not used.

SP-6:

20 SP-6 was prepared in a similar manner as SP-2 except that polyvinyl alcohol was not used.

SP-7:

SP-7 was prepared in a similar manner as SP-5 except that it contained a mixture of S-11 and S-41 at a ratio of 90:10 instead of S-11.

25

SP-8:

SP-8 was prepared in a similar manner as SP-3 except that contained a mixture of S-11 and S-41 at a ratio of 90:10 instead of S-11.

10021341-121001

Preparation of Modified Colloidal Silica Particle Dispersion

To 325 g of Nalco 2329 ® solution (40% solids from Nalco Co.) was added at room temperature dropwise, 1.29 g of aminopropyl methyl dimethoxysilane under stirring. The reaction was allowed to continue at room temperature for 24 hours before use.

Preparation of Base Layer Coating Solution 1

A coating solution was prepared by mixing

- (1) 242.6 g of water
- (2) 225.6 g of Albagloss-s® precipitated calcium carbonate (Specialty Minerals Inc.) at 70 wt. %
- (3) 8.75 g of silica gel Crosfield 23F ® (Crosfield Ltd.)
- (4) 8.75 g of Airvol 125® poly(vinyl alcohol) (Air Product) at 10 wt. %
- (5) 14.3 g of styrene-butadiene latex CP692NA ® (Dow Chemicals Corp.) at 50 wt. %
- (6) 75 g of SP-1

Preparation of Base Layer Coating Solution 2

Base Layer 2 was prepared in a similar manner as Base Layer 1 except that it was prepared with SP-2 instead of SP-1

Preparation of Base Layer Coating Solution 3

Base Layer 3 was prepared in a similar manner as Base Layer 1 except it was prepared with SP-8 instead of SP-1.

Preparation of Base Layer Coating Solution 4

Base Layer 3 was prepared in a similar manner as Base Layer 1 except it was prepared without stabilizer particles.

Preparation of Image Receiving Layer Coating Solution 1

Image Receiving Layer Coating Solution 1 was prepared by combining alumina (Dispal 14N4-80®, Condea Vista Co.), fumed alumina (Cab-O-Sperse® PG003, Cabot Corp.), poly(vinyl alcohol) (Gohsenol® GH-17, Nippon Gohsei Co.) and P-2 in a ratio of 66:20:4:10 to give an aqueous coating formulation of 15% solids by weight. Surfactants Zonyl® FSN (DuPont Co.) and Silwet L-7602® (Witco Corp.) were added in small amounts as coating aids.

Preparation of Image Receiving Layer Coating Solution 2:

Image Receiving Coating Solution 2 was prepared by combining 269 g of the above modified Nalco 2329®, 82 g of P-1, and 1.12 g of surfactant Zonyl® FSN, and 44 g of a core/shell particle [silica core and poly(butyl acrylate) shell] as prepared by the procedure as described in the Example 1 of U.S. Patent Application Serial No 09/535,703, filed March 27, 2000.

Preparation of Image Receiving Layer Coating Solution 3:

Image Receiving Coating Solution 3 was prepared the same as in Image receiving coating solution 2 except that the coating solution contained 90 g of SP-3.

Preparation of Image Receiving Layer Coating Solution 4:

Image receiving coating solution 4 was prepared the same as in Image receiving coating solution 2 except that the coating solution contained 90 g of SP-4.

Example 1 (Stabilizer Particles In Base Layer)

Comparative Element C-1 (No Stabilizer Particles in the Base Layer)

Base layer coating solution 4 was coated onto a photographic base paper and dried at about 90°C to give a dry thickness of about 25 µm or a dry coating weight of about 27 g/m².

Image receiving layer coating solution 1 was coated on the top of the base layer and dried at 90°C to give a dry thickness of about 8 µm or a dry coating weight of about 8.6 g/m².

5 Element 1 (Invention)

Element 1 was prepared the same as Comparative Element 1 except that the base layer coating solution 3 was used.

Element 2 (Invention)

10 Element 3 was prepared the same as Comparative Element 1 except that the base layer coating solution 1 was used.

Printing and Ambient Light Fading Test

15 The above elements were printed using a Kodak PPM 200® printer using color cartridges number 195-1730. The image consisted of adjacent patches of cyan, magenta, yellow, black, green, red and blue patches, each patch being in the form of a rectangle 0.4 cm in width and 1.0 cm in length. The images were then subjected to an ambient fluorescence white light fading test for up to one week. The reflection density nearest to 1.0 was compared before and after fade
20 and a percent density loss was calculated for the yellow dye with each receiver element. The following results were obtained:

Table 1

Element	Magenta Density Loss (%)	Black Density Loss (%)
C-1	20	18
1	11	8
2	11	7

The above results show that the elements prepared in accordance with the invention had less dye loss as compared to the comparative element.

Example 2 (Stabilizer Particles In Image-Receiving Layer)

5 Comparative Element C-2 (No Stabilizer Particles in Image-Receiving Layer)

Element C-2 was prepared the same as Element C-1 except that the imaging receiving layer coating solution 2 was used.

Element 3 (Invention)

10 Element 3 was prepared the same as Element 1 except that the image receiving layer coating solution 3 was used.

Element 4 (Invention)

15 Element 4 was prepared the same as Element 1 except that the image receiving layer coating solution 4 was used.

Gloss

The above recording elements were measured for 60° specular gloss using a Gardener® Gloss Meter.

20 The above elements were then printed and tested as in Example 1. The following results were obtained:

Table 2

Element	Gloss ¹	Gloss ²	Magenta Density Loss (%) ¹	Magenta Density Loss (%) ²
C-2	30	52	64.6	58.1
3	41	61	17.2	25.3
4	38	62	14	22.4

1. Before calendering

25 2. After calendering at 0.42×10^6 kg/m² (600 psi) and 52°C

100443001

The above results show that the elements of the invention had less magenta density loss before and after calendering as compared to the comparative element.

5 Accelerated Ozone Test:

The above printed elements were then exposed to ambient ozone for up to two weeks. The reflection density nearest to 1.0 was compared before and after exposure to ozone (50 ppb concentration) for 3 and 5 days, respectively, and a percent density loss was calculated for the yellow dye with each receiver element. The following results were obtained:

Table 3

Element	Magenta Density Loss (%)		Cyan Density Loss (%)	
	3 days	5 days	3 days	5 days
C-2	42	62	6	13
3	25	36	3	4
4	23	37	3	5

The above results show that the elements of the invention had less magenta and cyan density loss when exposed to ozone as compared to the comparative element.

Example 3 (Stabilizer Particles In Base Layer And Image-Receiving Layer)

20 Element 5 (Invention)

Element 5 was prepared the same as Element 3 except that the base layer coating solution 1 was used.

Element 6 (Invention)

Element 6 was prepared the same as Element 4 except that the base coating solution 2 was used.

The above elements were subjected to the accelerated ozone test as in Example 2. The following results were obtained:

Table 4

Element	Magenta Density Loss (%)		Cyan Density Loss (%)	
	5 days	7 days	5 days	7 days
5	15	36	2	8
6	12	23	2	5

The above results show that the elements of the invention had good resistance to ozone fade.

Although the invention has been described in detail with reference to certain preferred embodiments for the purpose of illustration, it is to be understood that variations and modifications can be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.